

# INFORMATION LETTER

## NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Not for  
Publication

For Members  
Only

No. 660

Washington, D. C.

July 31, 1937

### SEASONAL PRODUCTS EXEMPTED

#### Senate Adopts McNary Amendment to Hours Provision of Black-Connery Bill

After extended debate the Senate adopted on Thursday, July 29th, without a record vote, an amendment exempting from the maximum hour provisions of the Black-Connery Labor Bill employees engaged in the seasonal processing of perishable fruits, vegetables, sea foods, and miscellaneous other seasonal commodities. This amendment, which was inserted in the section authorizing the Labor Standards Board to prescribe maximum hours, reads:

*"Provided further, That the provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable with respect to any person employed in connection with the ginning and baling of cotton, the canning or other packing or packaging of fish, sea foods, sponges, or picking, canning, or processing of fruits, or vegetables, or the processing of beets, cane, and maple into sugar and syrup when the services of such person are of a seasonal nature."*

The Wage and Hour Bill is still being debated on the floor of the Senate and is still pending in the House Labor Committee where the measure is the subject of executive consideration. No official announcements of the Committee's progress have been issued, although it has been stated on the Senate floor that the House Committee has increased the possible minimum wage to 70 cents and has reduced the possible maximum number of hours to thirty-five.

#### Radio Talks on American Industries Published in Handbook

The Department of Commerce has published in a handbook the first 23 talks on Stories of American Industries which have been broadcast over a coast-to-coast hook-up of the Columbia Broadcasting System. The radio address on the canning and preserving industry which was broadcast on the afternoon of June 19th is included in the handbook. The Commerce Department states that "The object of publishing these educational broadcasts is to create a better understanding between industry and the public in the hope that both may cooperate for the welfare of all." Copies of the handbook may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., or through any of the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at 10 cents per copy.

#### Proposed California Cling Peach Marketing Order Considered

A proposed marketing order, which would establish grading regulations and provide for an industry advertising program for canning cling peaches produced in California, has been submitted by the State Department of Agriculture to

cling peach growers and canners for their written assent, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The proposed order is similar in all respects to the program which was effective during last season.

To become effective the proposed order must be approved in writing by growers representing more than 65 per cent of the total number of canning cling peach producers in California and who produced 65 per cent of the total crop of canning cling peaches grown in the State last year; and by 65 per cent of the total number of cling peach canners who canned at least 65 per cent of the total volume of cling peaches canned in California last year.

At the public hearing in Sacramento general approval was indicated upon the proposed order, including a number of amendments largely of a technical nature.

#### Rutgers Tomato Popular in New Jersey

According to a recent issue of "Marketing Activities", published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, about \$1,000,000 worth of tomatoes of the Rutgers variety are being grown in New Jersey this season for cannery use. This estimate is based upon a report received from the New Jersey Experiment Station, and it is estimated that about 25 per cent of New Jersey's market tomato crop will be comprised of this variety. It is also stated that the southern states have found the variety adaptable to their growing conditions, and reports have been received of plantings in Europe, Hawaii, Australia, and the Isle of Capri.

#### QUARTERLY STOCK SURVEY

##### Holdings Generally Less Than a Year Ago in Both Canners' and Distributors' Hands

Canners' July 1st stocks were substantially under those of a year ago for every item except tomatoes. Green and wax beans were practically cleaned up on July 1, 1937, insofar as canners were concerned. Canners' stocks of pears on July 1, 1937, were the smallest as of this date since 1934 and peaches since 1933, according to the quarterly canned foods stock survey made by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. These July 1st stocks in both canners' and wholesalers' hands represent about a normal carryover.

According to the Bureau's report, distributors' July 1st stocks were smaller than those of a year ago for every item except pears. These higher canned pear stocks (60 per cent more than on July 1, 1936) in distributors' hands reflect the very good movement out of packers' hands during the second quarter of 1937.

Wholesale distributors' stocks of peaches, pears, peas, corn, tomatoes, and green and wax beans combined were on July 1, 1937, 10 per cent smaller than their unusually large holdings

on July 1st a year ago, but about one-third higher than their stocks on the same dates of 1935 and 1934. The net seasonal decline in distributors' holdings of these six items combined between April 1 and July 1, 1937, was 23 per cent. This compares with the 15 per cent decline during the second quarter of 1936 and with net declines of about one-third during each of the second quarters of 1935 and 1934.

The detailed statistics that follow were compiled with the cooperation of the National Canners Association which collected and furnished the canners' vegetable stock figures. The

stock figures on the four canned vegetables represent *total stocks*. The data on canners' stocks of peaches and pears and on distributors' stocks of all of the six items were collected by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It is estimated that the distributors' stocks included in this report represent about 70 per cent of the stocks held by the wholesale distributing trade on the respective dates.

The Bureau's report has been mailed direct to canners, except members of the Association who receive the report through the INFORMATION LETTER.

Commodity	Canners' stocks <sup>a</sup>			Distributors' stocks <sup>b</sup>		
	July 1, 1936	April 1, 1937	July 1, 1937	July 1, 1936	April 1, 1937	July 1, 1937
FRUITS	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Peaches.....	1,257,541	2,434,550	925,111	615,388	690,082	549,363
Pears.....	826,459	1,659,046	557,580	183,442	281,558	299,544
VEGETABLES						
Peas.....	2,620,203	2,731,457	1,720,540	1,277,000	1,196,698	1,009,844
Corn.....	1,968,409	2,628,701	999,606	954,911	1,147,153	802,958
Tomatoes.....	1,887,732	3,291,210	2,507,046	947,873	1,255,923	912,181
Green and wax beans.....	505,789	419,115	74,791	312,296	467,773	287,841

<sup>a</sup> Peach and pear stocks compiled by Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and based on reports from 36 firms including nearly every large canner of these fruits. Vegetable stocks compiled by the National Canners Association and represent total stocks, sold and unsold.

<sup>b</sup> Compiled by Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and based on reports from the same firms for each date, estimated to cover about 70 per cent by volume of the wholesale distributing trade.

### STATISTICS OF FISH CANNING IN 1936

Complete statistics on the output of the fish canning industry in 1936 have been published by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, along with a summary of comparative figures for earlier years. According to these statistics 409 plants were engaged in the production of canned fish and by-products in 1936. The canned fish output of these plants amounted to 20,115,174 standard cases (48 one-pound cans), valued at \$94,657,869.

The output of canned fish products, not including by-products, in 1936 was as follows, by States:

State	Value
Maine.....	\$6,609,060
Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.....	1,117,229
Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.....	1,293,945
New York.....	659,528
Maryland.....	260,965
Virginia.....	126,204
North Carolina.....	34,628
South Carolina.....	367,838
Georgia.....	824,097
Florida.....	477,751
Alabama.....	160,985
Mississippi.....	1,980,995
Louisiana.....	2,506,286
Texas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Minnesota.....	307,445
Washington.....	3,582,880
Oregon.....	2,972,959
California.....	26,296,129
Alaska.....	45,078,945
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>94,657,869</b>

By-products of the fish canning industry had a value in 1936 of \$34,889,039, the principal items being marine animal oils, \$18,218,460; scrap, meal, etc., \$7,697,553; fresh-water mussel shell products, \$4,710,040; marine pearl-shell products, \$4,262,986.

The following table gives the details on plant and output of the individual products:

Product	Number of plants	Standard cases	Value
Salmon:			
United States.....	26	527,574	\$5,309,438
Alaska.....	117	8,437,603	44,751,633
Sardines:			
Maine.....	24	1,845,860	5,740,454
California.....	31	2,616,530	7,302,273
Tuna and tunalike fishes.....	16	2,680,734	14,715,391
Mackerel.....	30	1,236,850	3,542,895
Alewives.....	5	22,640	54,777
Alewife roe.....	30	29,391	208,783
Shad.....	10	17,345	46,805
Shad roe.....	8	3,604	113,087
Fish flakes.....	3	27,210	234,091
Fish cakes, balls, etc.....	6	88,926	641,268
Cat and dog food.....	8	267,425	743,968
Sturgeon caviar.....	5	3,112	426,254
White fish roe and caviar.....	5	1,867	54,358
Salmon roe and caviar.....	4	2,149	44,997
Salmon eggs (for bait).....	8	2,992	60,670
Miscellaneous fish and roe.....	13	20,066	263,350
Clam products.....	58	754,334	2,976,297
Oysters.....	51	525,127	2,173,373
Oyster soup.....	5	35,430	181,201
Shrimp.....	61	943,614	4,811,354
Crabs.....	14	7,300	130,753
Squid.....	3	8,068	30,708
Turtle products.....	4	4,129	68,500
Miscellaneous products.....	10	5,294	31,191
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>20,115,174</b>	<b>\$94,657,869</b>

<sup>a</sup> Exclusive of duplications.

The volume and value of the pack of the principal canned fish products in 1936 as compared with the three preceding years is given in the following table, in which the pack is reduced to standard cases of 48 one-pound cans:

## Comparative Summary for Years 1933-1936

Products	1933		1934		1935		1936	
	Standard Cases	Value						
Salmon:								
Pacific.....	1,136,861	\$7,865,903	901,206	\$8,205,947	894,768	\$6,707,130	527,574	\$5,309,438
Alaska.....	5,225,604	28,376,014	7,481,830	37,611,950	5,133,122	25,768,136	8,437,603	44,751,633
Sardines:								
Maine and Mass.....	900,906	2,397,348	1,142,730	3,315,190	1,655,839	5,142,750	1,845,860	5,740,454
California.....	1,539,446	3,805,168	1,970,047	5,481,391	2,420,055	6,237,262	2,616,530	7,302,273
Tuna.....	1,443,133	6,934,485	1,966,943	10,069,542	2,510,828	12,823,729	2,680,734	14,715,391
Oysters.....	348,130	1,076,318	436,542	1,871,060	500,885	2,044,903	525,127	2,173,373
Shrimp.....	860,462	3,479,477	1,021,822	4,403,077	1,086,345	4,721,872	943,614	4,811,354
Clam products.....	434,500	1,766,406	633,055	2,713,228	666,981	2,680,935	754,334	2,976,297
Miscellaneous fish products.....	1,147,926	4,098,844	1,822,727	6,409,957	2,566,253	8,872,317	1,783,798	6,877,656
Total.....	13,116,968	59,799,963	17,378,902	80,021,342	17,435,076	74,999,034	20,115,174	94,657,869

## PROGRESS OF SALMON PACK IN ALASKA

The following figures showing the progress of the pack of salmon in Alaska up to and including July 24, 1937, have been released by the Department of Commerce:

District	Coho Cases	Chum Cases	Pink Cases	King Cases	Red Cases	Total Cases
Bristol Bay.....	124	28,002	.....	6,585	1,399,677	1,434,388
Alaska Peninsula:						
North Side.....		3,682	149	236	46,039	50,106
South Side.....	2,999	71,504	161,493	2,237	79,293	317,526
Chignik.....	252	5,685	10,997	134	35,668	52,736
Kodiak.....	1,009	11,044	273,893	304	70,769	357,019
Cook Inlet.....	7,721	9,918	8,757	22,673	59,769	108,838
Resurrection Bay.....					762	762
Prince William Sound.....	4,030	10,949	93,901	217	5,848	114,945
Copper River (final).....			17	3,846	77,459	81,322
Southeast Alaska:						
Yakutat.....	45	3	454	1,728	13,077	15,307
Icy Strait.....	10,773	44,504	85,506	347	22,972	164,102
Eastern.....	1,892	25,375	70,021	7,672	4,432	109,392
Western.....	1,269	42,873	28,736	22	7,211	80,111
Wrangell.....	1,702	17,417	78,466	1,780	8,590	107,955
Southern.....	4,053	30,362	104,436	674	12,974	152,499
Total.....	35,869	301,318	916,826	48,455	1,844,540	3,147,770

## Truck Crop Prospects

Prices of potatoes, sweet potatoes, and a large number of truck crops for market declined during the last month under the pressure of heavy marketings from nearby producing areas, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on July 28, 1937.

Although most of the declines were of a seasonal nature, prices generally were below those of July, 1936, because of greater production this season. There are a few exceptions, however, such as the prices of lima beans, cantaloups, carrots, eggplant, onions, and green peas, all of which are higher than a year ago. Prices of cantaloups, eggplant, lettuce, onions, and peas also are higher than a month ago.

Crop prospects in most of the intermediate and late producing States are generally fair to very good. Since the acreages planted in these areas were, with few exceptions, increased slightly, the production outlook is for larger crops than in 1936. The potato and sweet potato crops are indicated to be 23 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, greater than in 1936. The intermediate crop of snap beans is up 30 per cent, cabbage 41 per cent, cantaloups 23 per cent, late lettuce 17 per cent, intermediate onions 13 per cent, late peas

13 per cent, intermediate tomatoes 6 per cent, and second-early watermelons 24 per cent, to name a few of the more important increases. These larger supplies indicate that prices in general during the balance of the season probably will continue somewhat below those of last year.

## Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

	Week ending—			Season total to—	
	July 24 1936	July 24 1937	July 17 1937	July 24 1936	July 24 1937
VEGETABLES					
Beans, snap and lima.....	61	27	22	7,791	7,945
Tomatoes.....	279	148	690	17,984	17,102
Green peas.....	219	111	184	5,291	4,829
Spinach.....	12	11	3	7,441	8,119
Others:					
Domestic- competing directly.....	1,830	1,689	1,749	119,248	119,403
FRUITS					
Citrus, domestic.....	2,105	1,522	1,742	115,446	125,905
Imports.....	2	13	...	703	318
Others, domestic.....	5,825	2,553	1,424	18,138	8,789

### Temperature and Rainfall Record

The following table gives the average temperature and total rainfall for the principal pea growing districts for each of the last two weeks, as shown by the U. S. Weather Bureau reports for selected stations in these districts:

District	Week ended		Week ended	
	July 20, 1937	Temp.	July 27, 1937	Rain
Maine.....	70	.2	71	0.4
Western New York.....	72	.2	75	0.2
Tri-States.....	80	1.2	78	1.0
South Central Ohio.....	75	2.3	75	0.2
Central Indiana.....	75	2.3	74	0.4
Central Illinois.....	76	.5	72	0.4
Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin.....	74	.0	74	0.2
Southern Minnesota.....	72	.3	75	0.2
Northern Colorado.....	72	.1	78	.0
Northern Utah.....	77	.5	84	.0
Northwestern Washington.....	66	.4	69	.0
Southeastern Washington.....	77	.0	83	.0

### Philippine Imports of Canned Fish in June

A report to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from the American trade commissioner at Manila states that imports of canned fish from the United States, with the exception of salmon, continued to be very low during the month of June, while imports of sardines from Europe were slightly above average and arrivals of canned fish from Japan were fairly good, particularly sardines and mackerel. Imports of Japanese pilchards continued to increase apparently because of the nonavailability of American pilchards.

Prices were steady throughout June with American sardine prices ranging from \$3.50 to \$4.25 when they could be obtained. Japanese sardines continued at \$2.45 to \$2.55, but increased about 25 cents per case shortly after the end of June. Stocks of Japanese sardines were fairly heavy and the demand was seasonally moderate, the report stated.

Imports during June of canned fishery products from the United States amounted to 2,800 cases of sardines, 1,000 cases of pilchards, and 7,300 cases of salmon. From Japan, the imports totaled 16,900 cases of sardines, 8,900 cases of mackerel, 800 cases of salmon, and 3,500 cases of pilchards. Imports of sardines from Europe amounted to 2,700 cases.

### Employment and Payrolls

The following indexes on employment and payrolls published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics are the latest now available. They are based on the average for 1923-25 as 100 per cent.

	Employment		Payrolls			
	June 1937	May 1937	June 1936	June 1937	May 1937	June 1936
All industries.....	101.2	102.3	90.1	102.8	105.2	81.1
Canning.....	118.5	99.6	126.3	122.1	108.5	102.7

### Tests of Italian-Type Tomato Varieties

The New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva reports in a recent release that tests have been carried on in order to clarify the situation in regard to the best variety of tomato to use for the Italian type pack. The purpose of the test has been to determine the variety of Italian type best suited to growing in New York. The release states that "the color must be a deep red covering the entire fruit, and the fruit must also be solid or have very thick flesh with almost total absence of the watery seed mass in the center of the fruit. The popularity of these small tomatoes for the solid pack or salad tomato in cans depends on the thick or firm flesh which holds the fruits to their original shape."

"The varieties which appear most promising in trials at Geneva are the King Humbert and the San Marzano, a selection from it. Other varieties are Italian Pear, Improved Italian, Principe Borghese, and Italian Plum. These are rather late in ripening and a number of selections and crosses have been made in order to secure a strain better adapted to New York State."

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